

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
2018 Strategic Plan
July 2018 Status Update

Goal 1: Delta Agricultural and Economic Enhancement

OBJECTIVES BY CATEGORY	STATUS	METRICS
Delta Economic and Agricultural Enhancement		
1. Work directly with local land owners, farmers, and others to analyze the state of Delta agriculture and identify priority agricultural investments and economic offset strategies for agricultural land conversions	See update below; this effort will be considered after an agricultural stakeholder group has been established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delta agriculture report ● Approved/accepted priorities and number of supporting partners
2. Establish an agricultural stakeholder group to consult on agricultural sustainability strategy identification and evaluation; and on agricultural sustainability project planning, prioritization, and implementation	Eleven Delta farmers were invited to an initial meeting on July 19 and next steps will be developed based upon discussion at that meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approved/accepted priorities and number of supporting partners
3. Support the Delta Marketing Task Force and Delta Protection Commission in identifying and securing funding to implement priority objectives in the Five- Year Delta Marketing Plan in cooperation with local business stakeholders	Delta Sign Plan completed in July, funding provided to the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) to fabricate and install signs in coordination with the Task Force. The Conservancy has provided funding to the DPC and is working in partnership to develop an updated Delta recreation map.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of 5-Year Delta Marketing Plan objectives completed
Ecosystem Restoration and Protection		
4. Support outflow water quality improvements on working lands by coordinating with agencies and local interests to identify and implement best management practices	State Water Resources Control Board awarded the Conservancy \$399,000 to implement best management practices related to use and handling of pesticides to improve water quality. Provided US EPA issues the necessary funds to the Water Board, work is anticipated to begin in early 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identified best management practices ● Number and acreage of projects implementing best management practices
5. Increase accessibility and utility of regional water quality data	Staff continue outreach to agencies and local groups through on-going meetings and events to increase use of existing data systems in support the statewide mandate (AB 1755) to improve accessibility of regional data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improvements to accessibility and utility of regional water quality data

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Grants and Funding

6. Fund Proposition 1-eligible agricultural sustainability projects that provide ecosystem and/or watershed protection and/or restoration benefits	In total, the grant program has awarded \$16,725,621 to seven projects with an agricultural sustainability component.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Number of grant projects and total funding
7. Identify, track, and pursue funding opportunities to support implementation of agricultural analysis- identified priority investments	The Conservancy will advance this objective once the agricultural analysis is complete.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Amount of funding secured/percent of priorities funded
8. Identify, track, and pursue funding to support implementation of priority objectives in the Five- Year Delta Marketing Plan, recreation and tourism projects, and historical preservation projects	Proposition 68 provides new funding that will further community access, technical assistance, and local assistance projects related to economic development and recreation. The Conservancy is currently staffing up to develop grant guidelines and implement a program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Conservancy contribution to Delta collaborative partnerships

Goal 2: Delta Ecosystem Viability

OBJECTIVES BY CATEGORY	STATUS	METRICS
Ecosystem Restoration and Protection		
1. Protect, restore, or enhance habitat and improve water quality through implementation of grant- funded projects	The Conservancy's Proposition 1 grant program has executed agreements for planning and implementation projects that will advance the protection, restoration, or enhancement of 1,600 acres of managed wetlands, 30 acres of aquatic habitat, 18.7 acres of riparian habitat, and 37.8 acres of upland habitat. The Conservancy was awarded \$399,000 (contingent upon US EPA funding the Non-Point Sources (NPS) Grant Program for implementation of best management practices to improve water quality in the Delta.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Number of projects and partnerships for habitat restoration, invasive species management, watershed protection, or water quality enhancement● Acres of protected, restored, or enhanced land by habitat and location● Acres with best management practices and/or other management techniques for water quality and weed treatment/invasive species control

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<p>2. Strengthen the coordination of water quality monitoring, data integration, implementation of best management practices, and environmental education efforts in partnership with existing Delta watershed efforts</p>	<p>The Conservancy is coordinating water quality monitoring with Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and is working with the San Joaquin Delta and Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalitions to implement best management practices. The Conservancy is coordinating with federal and state agencies to develop a basemap of aquatic resources and partnering with Yolo Basin Foundation and the Water Education Foundation on environmental education and outreach. The Conservancy is planning a competitive solicitation to support environmental education projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of projects and partnerships for habitat restoration, invasive species management, watershed protection, or water quality enhancement ● Acres of protected, restored, or enhanced land by habitat and location ● Acres with best management practices and/or other management techniques for water quality ● Improvements to accessibility and utility of regional water quality data
<p>3. Complete regional restoration strategies and priorities for the Cache Slough Complex and for additional region(s) in coordination with Delta stakeholders; collaborate with partners to implement high priority projects identified in regional plans</p>	<p>The Cache Slough Phase II effort is on hold indefinitely while the planning partners work to address near-term project implementation. The Central Delta Corridor Partnership is actively working to develop a corridor strategy, expected to be complete in the fall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completed comprehensive regional planning for advancement of Proposition 1 strategies ● Number of ecosystem restoration-focused partnerships and collaborations ● Number of projects implementing regional strategies
<p>4. Determine appropriate conditions under which the Conservancy would consider land ownership/ management</p>	<p>The Program and Policy Subcommittee (PPS) has requested that staff develop an outline of an information paper that will be presented at the August PPS meeting for consideration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completion and approval of land ownership and management analysis
<p>5. Continue to implement an invasive species control program and implement other on-the-ground projects to protect, restore, or enhance Delta habitat</p>	<p>Arundo control and restoration continues in the Cache Slough Complex in collaboration with Solano Resources Conservation District and Sonoma Ecology Center. With the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, the Conservancy is implementing bio and integrated control trials. Conservancy staff is seeking funding for a Delta-wide program. The Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination team held an Invasive Species Symposium in August 2017, is planing another for 2019.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of projects and partnerships for invasive species management ● Acres with best management practices and/or other management techniques for weed treatment/ invasive species control

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Delta Economic and Agricultural Enhancement

6. Collaborate with Delta interests and agencies to develop programs and promote incentives for land management projects that reduce carbon emissions	The Conservancy continues to seek funding to establish pilot projects to stop subsidence in the Western Delta and reduce carbon emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number/locations of projects. ● Dollars invested in multi-benefit carbon sequestration ● Acres with subsidence reversal or carbon sequestration practices ● Carbon sequestered and offset revenue realized
7. Evaluate public use opportunities on public land in the Delta and make recommendations on how to improve opportunities for recreation and education	An evaluation of recreation opportunities is anticipated as part of the Central Delta Corridor Partnership strategy. The Delta Protection Commission is currently scoping a recreation survey for the update of the recreation element of the Economic Sustainability Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completed analysis of and recommendations regarding recreational and education opportunities ● Number/distribution of recreational and educational projects implemented

Grants and Funding

8. Fund Proposition 1-eligible projects that provide ecosystem protection, restoration, and enhancement; water quality; and/or water-related agricultural sustainability benefits	The Conservancy's Prop 1 grant program has completed its third award cycle and has awarded \$28,807,888.92 to 21 planning and implementation projects that advance this objective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of projects funded and total funding ● Stable or upward trends in funding
9. Seek funding and project development resources for high priority restoration projects identified through regional planning efforts	Regional restoration planning efforts are ongoing. Anticipate that future bond funding will support future projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number and diversity of funding sources

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Goal 3: Conservancy Organizational Strength & Sustainability

OBJECTIVES BY CATEGORY	STATUS	METRICS
Administration		
1. Provide a safe, creative, inspiring, and equitable working environment for staff and management consistent with state standards	Supervisors and managers complete at least 40 hours of continuing education every 2 years which can focus on needs of each individual and organization. The Conservancy established a Disability Advisory Committee which discusses how the Conservancy can meet needs of individuals of all abilities. Exit interviews are conducted as each employee departs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff organization/skills aligned with goals● Staff satisfaction as shown through employee survey/exit interviews
2. Employ management practices to empower staff creativity, increase staff retention, and promote organizational capabilities to match the diverse needs of the Delta community	Individual Development Plans allow staff and supervisors to identify how the Conservancy can help individuals achieve goals and enhance abilities to meet needs of the individual, Conservancy, and its stakeholders. The staff engagement survey will provide another opportunity to share ideas and provide feedback to management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff organization/skills aligned with goals.● Staff satisfaction as sown through employee survey/exit interviews
3. Develop a staff succession plan to ensure the efficient transfer of institutional knowledge	Vacancies in the first half of 2018 emphasized the need for a succession plan, but make developing it a challenge. As resources allow, critical processes are identified and documented. Functions are assigned to distribute knowledge and capacity, lessening impacts if any individual is absent or leaves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff organization/skills aligned with goals
4. Continuously evaluate and improve organizational efficiency, programmatic structure, and workplace environment	The Executive and Deputy Executive Officers meet regularly to discuss opportunities for improvement. The staff engagement survey will provide an opportunity for staff to identify opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff organization/skills aligned with goals

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<p>5. Enable effective and sustainable Conservancy operation within the Delta community by strengthening existing partnerships and developing lasting new partnerships with Delta agencies and local interests</p>	<p>Conservancy hosted annual Prop 1 Public Workshop to engage and inform potential Prop 1 applicants and conducts an extensive outreach process to inform and encourage potential applicants. Board and Program and Policy Subcommittee meetings provide a consistent opportunity for stakeholder engagement and biannual updates of the Strategic and Implementation Plans ensure transparency regarding the Conservancy's objectives and tasks. Conservancy staff participate in hands-on environmental educations programs with local schools. The Conservancy listserv has increased by 75 additional contacts in the last year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities presented for stakeholder engagement ● Number of active participants in public meetings ● Number of sign-up to mailing list ● Materials developed/updated annually ● Number of events or outreach methods
<p>6. Increase awareness of the Conservancy's achievements among funders, partners, and the public through in-person outreach, social media, and other methods</p>	<p>The Conservancy intends to develop a communication plan to identify ways to enhance awareness and communication in furtherance of the Conservancy's mission. Work on the plan is tentatively scheduled to begin the last quarter of 2018.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities presented for stakeholder engagement ● Number of active participants in public meetings ● Number of sign-up to mailing list ● Materials developed/updated annually ● Number of events or outreach methods ● Hits, follows, comments

Grants and Funding

<p>7. Diversify and expand funding sources to adequately support program work, sustain current staff, and grow staff as needed to meet program needs and Conservancy goals</p>	<p>The Conservancy is working through state budget processes to identify and meet needs to fund core administrative functions. Proposition 68 provides \$12 million to help advance the Conservancy's legislative mandates and staff actively seek federal and state grants to fund programs. New federal funding was awarded to advance use of best management practices for pesticide best management to improve water quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trends in funding for core capabilities and for project grants ● Number and diversity of funding sources
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8. Identify and plan for potential long-term funding scenarios to position the Conservancy to sustain and grow its programs via future bonds or other funding sources	Proposition 68 provides new funding that will further community access, technical assistance, and local assistance projects related to economic development and recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Trends in funding for project grants● Number and diversity of funding sources
9. Promote Conservancy goals and objectives through Board engagement to constructively support Conservancy funding efforts including the pursuit of bond funding	The Board has expressed continued willingness to engage as appropriate to support Conservancy efforts and secure funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Trends in funding for project grants● Number and diversity of funding sources